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P. M. SMITH, President and Manager.

T. H. SMITH, Secretary and Treasurer.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1885.

The Saturday Press and Morning

Guide, together with the news, book and

job printing office, from which they issue,

are now the property of an organized com-

pany, Mr. T. G. Thrum, who has as

long carried on the business, has accepted,

temporarily, the position of manager.

The friends of reform and progress

throughout the islands are asked to do all

they can to strengthen the influence and

extend the usefulness of the Saturday

Press.

Liquor Licenses.

The action taken by the Privy Council

on last Tuesday, in regard to the

granting of retail liquor licenses on the

other islands is at best questionable.

We have no right to assume that the

Privy Council has acted wisely in the

matter because people in the city of

Honolulu are allowed to drink as much as

they please. Enlightened public opinion,

guided by the practical experience of

the past, and by the sagely utterances

of the economists of all countries, de-

nies the right of the abuse of personal

and physical liberty. Our moral and

social conditions, and the question of

domestic economy, will all be affected

for good or evil by the late action of the

Council.

There should be no question raised

as to granting licenses to responsible

parties only, for the very cog-

ent reason that liquor sellers are not

and never will be "responsible persons"

to entrust with either public or private

interests.

There is lack of strength in the argu-

ment that the granting of these licenses

will cause a decrease in the illicit liquor

traffic, because a traffic which is

limited by license privilege to one

dealer in a place—or at most two—

will exclude many who are now making

their living by illicit selling, and who

will continue to violate the law; the

licensed dealer will hardly be any more

successful than the officers have been,

in suppressing illicit trade; the granting

of licenses will make convictions for

illicit selling less certain, inasmuch as

the privilege of buying legally does

away with the fact that possession of

liquor is *prima facie* proof of a violation

of law. To assume that drunkenness

will not be increased by licensing in-

dulgence is about as logical as it would

be to assume that crime is not restrained

under proper legal administrations;

yet such assumption has been made by

promoters of the present license

scheme.

It has been stated that the object of

granting licenses was to increase the

revenue; but no matter what may be

the present gain of the government it

is a mistaken policy to institute

measures, which, experience with the

Hawaiian character has already taught

us, will ultimately call for legislative

reform.

The planters of the other islands will

be directly affected by the working of

this license system; and their only re-

lief would seem to be for them to buy

up the licenses and, by holding them

prevent the building up of a traffic that

will disturb the quiet of the neighbor-

hood and the punctuality of laborers.

It is rumored that one planter, though

a supporter of the Government theo-

retically, has practically and with busi-

ness-like foresight proceeded to buy the

licenses which would effect his district.

The native element is rapidly decreasing

as each succeeding census shows, and

it is a painful and impolitic adminis-

tration that thus hurries a doomed

nation to its death. If it is true that

the government has been actuated in

this matter by a desire to increase the

revenue at the expense of national

stability and longevity, then indeed has

it added cupidity to criminality.

It was hoped before we went to

press that news would be received as

to the personnel of President Cleve-

land's cabinet; but as the City of To-

kio, which arrived here at 5 P. M. yes-

terday, left San Francisco at 2 P. M.

on the 5th inst. before news of the

selections had been received there, we

are doomed to nurse our curiosity until

the arrival of the mail steamer. The

few papers brought, however, give glow-

ing accounts of the inaugural cere-

monies, which are stated to be the

grandest America ever witnessed.

Fraternal good feeling irrespective of

party prevailed; and President Cleve-

INOCULATION AND LEPROSY.

The ignorance which prevails among

the masses in reference to the nature

of leprosy was never better illustrated

than in the remarks often heard upon

the inoculation experiments which have

been going on within the prison walls.

We refer to the case of Keanu, the mur-

derer, whose sentence was commuted

upon condition that he subject himself

to experimentation by Dr. Arning.

It is known that within a few

months past this man has been the sub-

ject of several scientifically conducted

inoculations with the virus of leprosy;

and it is also known that so far as de-

veloped contamination is concerned,

there has been as yet, no apparent re-

sult. From this knowledge, there are

many who would immediately base an

argument against the inoculability of

leprosy, as if these were all the factors

to be considered in determining such a

question; whereas it would not be

more absurd to see small-pox or measles

developed in a person in twenty-four

hours after contact with a patient suf-

fering from either of these diseases.

Experience tells us that such an ex-

pectation would be absurd, and that in

the case of measles, about twelve, and

in the case of small-pox, from fourteen

to sixteen days from the date of contact,

would have to elapse before the effects

of contamination would appear. This

period of incubation, as it is called, var-

ies according to the disease, but is as

constant in nearly all acute specific dis-

eases as the property common to plants

to germinate in a certain time from

the planting of the seed, which time

may be closely determined by the na-

ture of the plant—being longer or

shorter accordingly. There are good

reasons for believing that the period of

incubation in leprosy is one immensely

protracted in comparison with that of

most other diseases of germ origin, al-

though its exact period has not yet

been determined.

Different authors estimate the period

of incubation in leprosy at between two

and five or seven years, with the pre-

ponderance of authority in favor of the

longer period. Then, how absurd to ex-

pect results from the inoculation of

Keanu who has only been the subject of

experiment for a very few months past.

Had he already developed leprosy, no

physician who knows anything of the

disease, would believe that it was the

result of the inoculations so lately prac-

ticed upon him, but would prefer the

theory that he had had the disease

latent in his system long before he en-

tered those prison walls.

So far as establishing the inoculabil-

ity of leprosy, or otherwise, the results

in any case, will be nugatory. Having

been born and bred in a country where

the percentage of leprosy is so very

large as on these islands, if he develop

the disease at any period within five or

six years, there can be no reasonable

certainty but that he received the con-

tagion before his incarceration; if after

that space of time the probability that

the disease has been acquired as the

result of inoculation, will become

greater. Then again, if he does not

take the disease at all, the fact of non-

inoculability will not thereby be es-

tablished. Many people seem to

possess the constitutional power of re-

sisting certain other contagious and in-

fective diseases through a whole life,

even though through successive and

protracted periods, brought into con-

tact with them; and why is it not pos-

sible that like exceptions should apply

in the case of leprosy contagion as well?

This is not a question to be decided off-

hand or in a given period of time, not

yet by a single experiment; and the

people would do well to reserve their

opinions upon a subject upon which

the best dermatologists are by no means

agreed.

The laxity observed by the

Board of Health, in its dealings with

the unfortunates who by

law come under their surveillance and

restrictions, is a matter of serious mo-

ment to this country. The revelations

made by the Gazette of this week, un-

fortunately, are nothing new, for it is

the same condition and interference

that this paper commented upon in no

mild terms over two years ago. We

can readily understand the sympathies

that are called forth in dealing with the

unfortunates themselves; but to release

them and allow them liberty to roam at

will is not only mistaken kindness, but

it is criminal in the highest degree. It

is willfully increasing the risk to in-

nocent parties. And what can be said

in favor of the reported appointment

of the medical inspector of schools after

considering his other regular duties?

It is not proposed to here enter into

CURRENCY CORRESPONDENCE.

We publish herewith the correspond-

ence between the committee of the

Chamber of Commerce and the gov-

ernment upon the currency difficulties.

It speaks for itself and needs no com-

ment at our hands.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN M. KAPENA,

His Hawaiian Majesty's Minister of Fi-

nance.

SIR: At your Excellency's request we have

the honor to state the terms of the propo-

sals placed verbally before your Excellency

this morning for the facilitation of the main-

tenance of financial equilibrium in the Cur-

rency of the Kingdom.

We understand that the members of the

Chamber of Commerce are prepared to un-

dertake to accept and circulate silver certifi-

cates above Ten Dollars denomination as equivalent

to gold, if the Government will undertake to

deposit a margin of sixteen per cent. on all

silver coins held against said Certificates.

Provided, however, that the Treasury will

make due provision for the redemption of the

Certificates in Gold on some definite and

reasonable terms.

It appears to us to be at the very foundation

of any system, that the holder of a Certificate

should have absolute confidence in his ability

to get Gold in an emergency for his paper.

We therefore suggest that the government

undertake that in event the Gold in the

Treasury being exhausted, they will pay within

a definite time from presentation (say sufficient

to enable the Government to procure the Gold)

all Certificates in Gold.

As a check upon indiscriminate withdrawal of

Gold, we would propose that all applications for

redemption of Certificates in Gold be made so

far as practicable through one of two houses

say Bishop & Co. and W. G. Irwin & Co.

It is further understood that the Government

will consent to the appointment by the Cham-

ber of Commerce of a Committee of Auditors,

of the accounts known in the Treasury Books

as "Certificates of Deposits" and "Special De-

posits" and that this Committee shall have

access at all times to these accounts and the

Coins represented by them.

It is further agreed that any violation of the

spirit of this agreement shall free all parties

concerned from its provisions.

We have the honor to remain your Excellency's

most obedient servants:

J. O. CARTER, J. O. CARTER,

Honolulu Chamber of Commerce.

Honolulu, February 25, 1885.

B. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,

Honolulu, 26th February, 1885.

MESSRS. J. O. CARTER, J. HYMAN AND

THO. H. DAVIES.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowl-

edge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's

date in which you submit to me a proposal,

on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, having

in view the maintenance of financial equi-

librium in the Currency of the Kingdom.

In reply I have the honor to inform you that

I have laid your proposition before my col-

leagues, and that the government will immedi-

ately give authoritative statement of its views

and purpose, in regard to the subject which

your letter discusses.

I have the honor to be gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

JNO. M. KAPENA,

Minister of Finance.

C. HONOLULU, H. I.

March 3rd 1885.

HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN M. KAPENA,

His Hawaiian Majesty's Minister of Fi-

nance, &c., &c., &c.

On the 25th February a committee of

the Chamber of Commerce of this city ad-

dressed you in reference to a proposition for

the maintenance of financial equilibrium in

the currency of the Kingdom and up to this time

the committee has awaited a reply to the propo-

sals made to your Excellency.